



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE DEPORTS 5 ILLEGAL ALIENS CONVICTED FOR SEX WITH 14-YEAR OLD MENTALLY DISABLED GIRL**

*Victim was prostituted by relative; 6th criminal alien involved was deported in July*

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers deported five of 10 illegal aliens Wednesday who were convicted of paying for sex with a mentally disabled 14-year-old Austin girl who was prostituted by a relative.

A sixth man was deported in July and sentencing is pending for the remaining four who were convicted.

All 10 men were living in the United States illegally and the Austin Police Department arrested them in July for the crime.

Each of the five deported men was convicted in Mower County District Court of engaging in prostitution with a minor and sentenced to 18 months in prison. All five were also required to register as sex offenders.

The five men removed to Mexico Wednesday evening were Dionicio Gutierrez-Franco, 23; Miguel Angel Gutierrez-Franco, 19; Jaime Mendoza-Reyes, 29; Ricardo Sandoval-Maldonado, 32; and Catalino Silva-Mendoza, 27.

All had been living and working in Austin under false identities, and had used fraudulent U.S. or Puerto Rican birth certificates and phony Social Security cards.

The sixth man convicted of participating in the same prostitution, Jose Nieto-Herrera, 25, also a citizen of Mexico, was deported in October. The four remaining involved men were convicted in Mower County Court and will be sentenced later this month.

Wednesday's removals are part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative designed to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents in Minnesota have arrested more than 130 alleged and convicted sexual predators to date, making it among the top ten states nationwide for apprehensions. Nationwide, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,700 sexual predators. During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE detention and removal officers removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of such crimes as drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape, and fraud, among others. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

NOTE: For JPEG digital image files of the men deported yesterday, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at [Tim.Counts@dhs.gov](mailto:Tim.Counts@dhs.gov).

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*